

The SDT will rank sites by relative priority: high, medium, or low. For most sites, sufficient information regarding the release or threatened release will be available at the time of ranking to conduct the ranking. In general, data required for site screening and listing should be sufficient to:

1. Eliminate from further action those facilities that clearly do not pose a substantial danger to the public health or welfare, the environment, or natural resources;
2. Determine if a facility may meet one or more of the minimum hazard threshold criteria contained in Chapter 11-451 and therefore, taking additional response action is appropriate;
3. Provide the basis for listing a site pursuant to Chapter 11-451-9; and
4. Provide the basis for expending monies from the Fund for oversight or response action.

If sufficient information does not exist to conduct the above evaluations, additional data may be collected, or required to be collected, by the HEER Office. Site ranking may change after additional data is collected.

1.4.3 Site Characterization

Following the discovery and prioritization of sites, the HEER Office will contact the potentially responsible party and attempt to enter into a consent agreement (CA) which would require the PRP to conduct a site characterization, either a removal assessment or a remedial investigation. This CA will place the burden of assessing the facility upon the PRP. If the HEER Office and the PRP fail to enter into an agreement, DOH may issue an order requiring that site characterization be completed or may conduct the site characterization using the Fund. The purpose of the site characterization phase is to collect enough data to determine the appropriate response action, including the possibility of no further action. The site characterization will take the form of either a removal assessment, for sites of a less complex nature, or a remedial investigation, for sites which have complex geology or contaminant mixtures, extensive area-wide contamination, or a high degree of public interest.

1.4.4 Response Actions

Chapter 128D describes two types of response actions, removal and remedial. Under Chapter 11-451, SCP, the primary distinction between the two is the complexity of the alternatives analysis and the public participation requirements. In deciding whether to follow the removal or remedial process, the HEER Office will consider the following factors: